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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Chung-kue Jen-wu.

Ho Hsing-chih

A fact known by only a few people is the conclusion of a secret agreement between Mao Tse-tung and Gen Okamura Yastusugu, the war criminal. The National Defense Ministry on 22 April 1946 announced the following item:

"The CCP leader, Mao Tse-tung, during the war concluded a secret agreement with the enemy's head man, General Okamura. At that time General Okamura was Commanding Officer of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in North China. On 17 August 1943, Mao Tse-tung proceeded from Pao-te (Shensi) through Wu-sai-chu to Shen-ch'ih (Shensi). General Okamura proceeded from Pao-te via Chuo-hsien to Shen-ch'ih, and there concluded with Mao Tse-tung a secret agreement involving three points: (1) the Japanese troops and the CCF would collaborate in fighting the Chinese Nationalist troops; (2) General Okamura gave Mao ten small arsenals; (3) the CCF would supply the Japanese with military intelligence concerning the Nationalist forces. After the conversations, a photograph of both together was taken as a souvenir of the occasion."

The National Defense Ministry's Military Tribunal for the trial of war criminals has recently acquitted General Okamura of being a war criminal. He had been released and has returned to Japan. The Communists do not agree with this decision. They charge him with having "violated the people's will," and they demand his extradition from Japan to stand trial before them.

Whether or not the acquittal of General Okamura is a "violation of the people's will," we are not in a position to say, but in view of the great number of ordinary peasants who were killed by the bayonets of the cruel soldiers under his command, to say he is without guilt is something with which a great many people will disagree. The decision exonerating General Okamura was not unanimous. One judge by the name of T'ao dissented, but was removed under orders from the Ministry of National Defense. It was thus really a political, and not a judicial decision.

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Possible reasons why the Communists object to Okamura's exoneration follow:

1. For 2 years after V-J Day, in the capacity of Chief of the Liaison Staff, Okamura lived in Nanking in comfortable quarters. What he did, no one seems to know. The authorities say he cooperated in arranging for the return to Japan of the last of the Japanese prisoners of war. But it must be remembered that he was an ardent criminal in the exploitation of China. Why was it necessary to retain him in Nanking to arrange for the repatriation of Japanese prisoners of war? According to information from those concerned in these matters, Okamura in previous years had had close and friendly intercourse with Ho Ying-ch'in. Following V-J Day, Okamura complied with the Central Government's orders and caused the Japanese troops to hold the large cities and communication lines and prevent them from falling into the hands of CCF detachments. Thus, the Nationalist troops were able to take possession of Shang-hai, Nanking, Li-ting, T'ien-ching, Hsu-chou and other important points. The Chief of Staff at that time, responsible for receiving the surrender of Japanese troops, was Ho Ying-ch'in. Thus it was that Okamura was so liberally treated in Nanking for 2 years. His imprisonment and trial occurred only during the past year.

The following paragraph seems to refute the idea of the accord mentioned above.

2. General Okamura unquestionably is an unusually able man. This was shown in his coping with Chinese guerrilla warfare. In North China, his principal adversary was the 18th Army Group, which was the CCP's main force in North China. They were trained to penetrate behind the enemy front lines to the transportation lines and cities under Japanese occupation, and attack the troops garrisoning these points. In the course of these operations, there developed an undying enmity between Okamura and the CCP. At that time, Okamura devised, and ordered the troops under him to employ in their attacks upon Communist territory, the extremely savage tactics that were known as the "San kuang policy" which, expanded meant the policy of killing off entirely all living things, looting everything clean, and then burning everything remaining. They made no distinction in treatment between guerrilla fighting men and the rest of the people. Although he could not exterminate the CCP 18th Army Group, he had much greater success than did his predecessor, General Tada.

3. There is a further reason for the Communist's demand. It is reported that Okamura, with the approval of the American authorities in Japan, intends to organize a volunteer army of 2 million demobilized Japanese soldiers to return to China and engage in fighting the Chinese Communists. It is hard to know whether or not there is any foundation for this report. Nevertheless, the CCP has put this matter of Okamura's extradition on the agenda as one of the conditions for discussion in the peace talks. It cannot fail to be one of the obstacles to success of the peace conversations.

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